

NPS Ice Bridge: Profiles from Beringia!

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2013-2014!

This is the annual progress report summarizing the first project year accomplishments for the three year cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the Sitka Sound Science Center for the project: Ice Bridge: Profiles from Beringia.

Six profiles were selected and researched: an opening set-up profile of the anniversary of the Friendship Flight, a profile of an athlete from the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, a profile of the culture and heritage of native games, a profile of the 8 year ecosystem research in the Bering Sea, a profile of woolly mammoth research occurring in Russia and Alaska, a profile of the potential impacts of offshore oil drilling in the Bering Straits region.

Design and construction of website occurred. Initial site was deconstructed and rebuilt over a period of several months to improve ease of use in rural areas. A new server and program were selected to improve speed, accessibility and user-friendliness of the site. arcticprofiles.com is up and running with content.

Additional interviews and field work were conducted for all six profiles selected.

Principal investigator, Elizabeth Arnold, traveled to Anadyr for Beringia Days International Conference and presented an introduction and overview of Ice Bridge: Profiles from Beringia to conference attendees. Arnold also conducted interviews and gathered material in Anadyr for the opening profile "Friendship Flight."

Work continued on six profiles selected and initial "Friendship Flight" profile was posted on website. Webmaster and Arnold reworked the site to better accommodate the audio slideshow format and improve user friendliness. Map was added to homepage with improved text.

Three audio slideshows, "Friendship Flight," "High Kick," and "Pribilofs" are all posted and easily accessed on the website. Audio tease tape was added to the site to draw visitors to each individual audio slideshow. Place names were added to the site to better identify the location of each profile. An additional three profiles are near completion and photos and audio teases were added to the site as placeholders for the final profiles, "Offshore Drilling," "Games," and "Woolly Mammoth." The audio portion of "Offshore Drilling," was broadcast nationally on Marketplace which has nine million listeners. The audio was also broadcast statewide on Alaska Public Media, which has 37,000 listeners in Alaska. <http://www.marketplace.org/people/elizabeth-arnold>

While the minimum requirement of three audio slideshows was met and will be exceeded with the completion and posting by September 1, 2014 of three additional audio slideshows (Games, Offshore Oil, and Woolly Mammoths), recipient is also working to ensure broadcast of separate audio stories on Alaska Public Media and national outlets with a back announce directing listeners to the Arctic Profiles website. Recipient is also working on Arctic Profiles Facebook page to tag individuals in the profiles and promote additions to the website through social media.

Arnold is also working on an additional 12 two-minute audio profiles of marine research in the Bering Sea that will also be posted on the site and cross promoted with the North Pacific Research Board. These profiles will be distributed statewide to public radio stations.

Arnold is consulting with US Arctic Research Commission for a framework for profiles that will highlight goals and objectives developed by Commission. Arnold is continuing to work with website developer to add content to navigation on site for links, credits, contacts, and project description.